

Children's Corner.

THE FAIRIES GIFTS.

BY L. ELLIS THORNE.

Once there were two little sisters, called Pink and Prissy, living in a country that you won't find down upon the map, if you look for it ever so long, and put your grandfather's spectacles on to help you into the bargain! Pink was blue-eyed, with yellow, glossy curls, and tiny white teeth, like pearls; but Prissy was not pretty to look at, although she had a good, kind little heart of her own! Their father was a soldier, who had marched away to fight the battles of some crazy-headed Emperor, who fancied he hadn't got something that he wanted, or had got something he didn't want, nobody on earth knew which; but, at all events, it was necessary that a hundred thousand men should fight the matter out at once, so poor Caspar Krink was marched off with a red cap on his head, and a knapsack on his back.

"Go off to school, children—go!" said Mrs. Krink to Pink and Prissy, as soon as they had done crying over their father's departure, "and you needn't come back home to dinner, for I'm sure I don't know what there is to eat, unless you eat the green leaves off the trees, and the spiders' webs from the bushes."

"Shall I stop at the butcher's, and tell him to send us home some sausages?" said Pink, who was very fond of Bologna sausages.

"Meat can't be had without money, child," said Mrs. Krink, wiping her eyes with the dish-towel, for she couldn't afford a pocket handkerchief.

"I wish I had a bag of money," sighed Prissy.

"You may well say that," said Mrs. Krink. "If we had had a little money your poor, dear father needn't have been marched off to be killed by the enemy's sword! Alack-a-day! I don't know what is to become of us all!"

So the two little sisters set off, with very low spirits. "Pink," said Prissy, "let us go to see if we can't find a purse of money!"

"What a fool you are," said Pink, ill-naturedly. "Money don't grow on every tree!"

"But if we searched long enough we might find the tree it did grow on," suggested Prissy, humbly.

"Oh, fiddle-de-dee!" said Pink. "I'm not going to spoil my complexion, and blow my hair out of curl looking for any such moonshine! See! there's an old woman driving a donkey cart, and all her potatoes are spilling out in the road behind—let's run!"

"I mean to go and tell the old woman she is losing her potatoes!" said Prissy.

"Don't you do it!" said Pink, sharply. "I believe you are an idiot as well as a fright, and it's none of your business, any way. Besides, we can pick up the potatoes, and carry them home and cook them for dinner!"

"But they are not ours," said Prissy, gravely.

"As much ours as anybody else's," said Pink, who never went to Sunday school, and consequently did not know anything about the Ten Commandments.

But Prissy was too honest to listen to her pretty little sister; and she ran on, crying out, "Mrs. Driver! Mrs. Driver! you are losing the potatoes out of your cart!"

The little old woman stopped her cart, and fastened up the loose board which had done the mischief, thanking Prissy the while.

"I must see if I can't find a present for two such good little girls," said the old woman, opening one of her big wicker baskets. "Perhaps you would like a nice hen to lay you a fresh egg every morning?" And she pulled out a little black hen, with yellow eyes, and a tuft of feathers on the top of her head, as if she wore a black velvet turban, and offered it to Pink; but Pink put both her hands behind her, very rudely.

ran out to the shed and made up a soft nest of hay in an old box, and then she scattered corn and oats on the ground, and filled a little tin cup she had, with fresh water, and watched the black hen eat and drink, with great satisfaction.

"Now, dear old Top Knot," she said, in a whisper; "please to lay me a nice white egg, and it shall be boiled for my poor mother's breakfast to-morrow morning."

The black hen could not answer in the sort of talk that Prissy was accustomed to, but she cawed and cooed, and blinked her yellow eyes at Prissy, as if she quite understood what it all meant!

Just before Prissy went to bed that night she ran out to see whether Top Knot was comfortable—and, lo and behold! there was a big egg lying in the nest. But it was not white—it was yellow, and shining, and very, very heavy!

Prissy took it up, and ran with it to old Friedrich, the gardener, who was hobbling home from his day's work. "Did you ever see such a funny egg as this, Friedrich?" she exclaimed.

"It isn't an egg," said Friedrich, examining it through his spectacles; it is a solid gold!"

"But my hen, Top Knot, laid it!" said Prissy.

"Then I'd keep her laying eggs all the while," said Friedrich; for as sure as eggs are eggs this egg is gold! Two or three such lumps of money as this, and you'll be rich people!"

Prissy caught up her egg, and ran eagerly into the house to show it to her mother—and while they were rejoicing over it, Pink took up the hatchet, and stole out to the hen yard, with her ugly lips pouted out worse than ever.

"Prissy is very proud because she has a black hen that lays eggs of solid gold," thought the ill-natured little girl, "but I'll soon put a stop to that fun!"

So she seized the black hen off her roost, and ran to the stump where Caspar Krink split kindlings when he was at home.

"You needn't flap your wings so," said she to the old hen, "for I'm going to cut your head off!"

And sure enough she lifted the hatchet up in the moonlight, and cut the old top-knotted head off with one blow!

"There!" said Pink, "I'll teach Prissy to put on airs!"

But the moment the hen's head was off, she disappeared, every feather of her, and in her place there stood the little old woman who had driven the donkey cart.

"You ill-tempered, spiteful, cruel child!" cried the old woman, waving her donkey-whip in the air; "one lesson is not enough for you, but you must have two! I won't have you doing any more mischief to your good little sister—I'll make an Owl of you, and done with it!"

"You can't!" said Pink, pertly.

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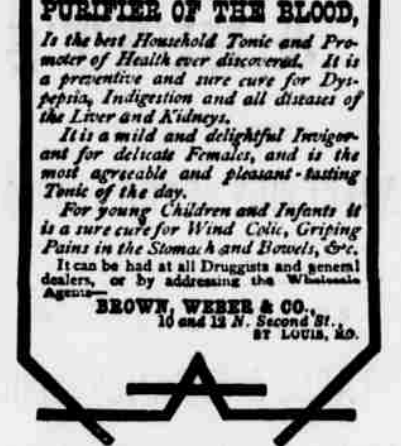
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A. M. SHULTS. March 3, 1870. n96w



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Final Settlement.

THE undersigned, curator of the estate of **Mary A. Wacker,** hereby notifies all persons that he has filed a just and true exhibit of the account between himself and said ward, on the 16th day of May, 1870, and that he will apply at the next August term of the Lincoln County Court, 1870, to be begun and held at the court house in Troy, in said county, on the 2nd Monday of said month, for leave to make a final settlement of his accounts as curator aforesaid, and for his discharge as such curator. n19j

R. WOMMACK, Curator.

Final Settlement.

THE undersigned, Curator of the estate of **Eda F. Reed,** formerly Ida F. Reuter, hereby notifies all persons that he has filed a just and true exhibit of the account between himself and said ward, on the 9th day of May, 1870, and that he will apply at the August term of the Lincoln County Court, 1870, to be begun and held at the court house in Troy in said county, on the 2nd Monday of said month, for leave to make a final settlement of his accounts as curator aforesaid, and for his discharge as such curator. n19p

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Administrator's Notice.

NOTICE is hereby given that letters of administration were granted to the undersigned on the estate of **Samuel B. Clifford, dec'd,** on the 8th day of March, 1870, by the Clerk of the County Court of Lincoln county, Mo. All persons having claims against said estate are required to exhibit them to the administrator for allowance within one year from the date of said letters, or they may be precluded from any benefit of said estate; and if not exhibited within two years from the date of said letters they will be forever barred. ap12n10